

B circulating positions, so that the intervals between the drivers of different individual lines can be adjusted simultaneously.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 through 16.

Please add the following new claims 17 through 29.

24
B --17. A conveyor apparatus for transporting objects having a plurality of continuous circulating guided conveyor lines with drivers arranged at intervals from each other wherein the conveyor line is constructed of continuously circulating individual chains each of which has respective drivers arranged at intervals from each other and wherein the individual chains can be adjusted relative to each other with respect to their circulating positions so that the intervals between the drivers of different individual chains may be adjusted simultaneously and wherein each individual chain is guided over a sprocketed wheel having rubbing flanks with the sprocketed wheels being mounted adjacent to each other on a shaft in a cluster-like manner where the cluster of sprocketed wheels are frictionally connected with each other and connected fixedly and non-rotationally to the shaft so that in an uncoupled state each individual sprocketed wheel can rotate relative to the others and to the shaft.--

--18. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said drivers are held on each conveyor live so that they can be adjusted in the direction of transport.--

--19. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein each driver has driver strips which extend across all of the conveyor lines transversely to the direction of transport.--

--20. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein the same number of drivers are arranged on each conveyor.--

--21. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein each of the conveyors are guided over an adjusting roller comprising a guide wheel each arranged next to each other, each said guide wheel being adjustable to different rotational positions relative to another guide wheel.--

--22. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 21 wherein each guide wheel is adjusted continuously relative to another guide wheel.--

--23. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said adjusting roller is a driving device.--

--24. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein the chains are made at least partially of plastic.--

--25. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein each chain consists of links that can be locked together with each having a pin section with two cylindrical pins and a forked receptacle section with holes to receive the pins.--

--26. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein each chain link has straight top edges or flat top sides so that flat positioning surfaces are formed for objects which are to be transported.--

--27. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein each driver has strips that extend across all of the conveyor lines and said driver strips are made in a single piece with a selected on of said chain links.--

--28. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein each chain link has a meshing projection that intermeshes with a guide wheel or drive wheel.--

--29. A conveyor apparatus in accordance with claim 25 wherein each chain link has straight top edges or flat sides so that the flat positioning surfaces are formed for objects which are to be transported.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The matter claimed has been deleted.

The Examiner also objected to the abstract of the disclosure and a new abstract following the guidelines suggested by the Examiner is submitted herewith.

The Examiner also objected to the specification for failing to provide antecedent basis over the claimed matter as set forth in originally presented Claim 10. This claim has been cancelled so this objection has been obviated.

In a sincere effort to overcome the objection on prior art, applicant has provided a new independent Claim 17 which recites elements and features not found in any of the prior art of record. Claim 17 requires that each individual chain is guided over a sprocket wheel having rubbing flanks, the sprocketed wheels being mounted adjacent to each other on a shaft in a cluster-like manner where the cluster of sprocketed wheels can be pressed in an axial direction so that in a coupled state, the sprocketed wheels are frictionally connected with each other and connected fixedly and non-rotationally to the shaft,